

NEWS RELEASE

FILING FOR HOMEOWNERS' EXEMPTION IS FREE

San Luis Obispo County Assessor Tom J. Bordonaro, Jr. reminds all homeowners in San Luis Obispo County that filing for a Homeowners' Property Tax Exemption can be done without charge through the County Assessor's Office.

The Assessor has received several inquiries about a Chicago based company which has been sending letters to San Luis Obispo County residents offering to assist in the filing of a claim for Homeowners' Exemption for a \$25.00 fee. The letter from "Property Tax Assessor Records Corporation" is not associated with any County or State agency, and the \$25.00 processing fee quoted in the letter is not required if you apply for your Homeowners' Exemption through your local County Assessor's Office. "The only cost to a homeowner would be the 39 cent stamp used for mailing a State approved exemption form back to the Assessor".

The Homeowners' Property Tax Exemption first came into law in 1969 and can save a homeowner up to \$75.00 a year in property taxes. This exemption is available at no cost to any California homeowner who owns and occupies their home as their principal place of residence on January 1st of any given year. Once a Homeowners' Exemption is on file in the Assessor's Office, it remains in effect as long as the homeowner continues to own and occupy the home as their principal place of residence.

Bordonaro encourages homeowners who have not previously filed for the Homeowners' Exemption to do so. All the homeowner needs to do is to contact the Assessor's Office and ask for a Homeowners' Exemption application. The Assessor's main office is at 1055 Monterey Street, Suite D360 in San Luis Obispo and the telephone number is 781-5643. For North County residents, there is a satellite office at 5955 Capistrano Avenue, Suite B in Atascadero with a phone number of 461-6143.